

SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT.  
-----Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
for the Year 1943.  
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This Report is prepared on the lines asked for by the Minister of Health in Circular 2773. In accordance with his directions most information usually contained in the Report is omitted and filed for future reference.

Infectious Disease

No particular remarks are called for in connection with the incidence of major infectious disease during the year, except that there was more Scarlet Fever than in recent years. Twelve cases were notified. No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

Cases of infectious disease requiring hospitalisation were admitted to Vine House Isolation Hospital, Sturminster Newton, administered by the North Dorset Joint Hospital Board.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The Council's Scheme making immunisation free of cost available to all children between the ages of one and fifteen years continued to operate during the year.

At the 31st December 80% of children of school age and 95% of children under school age had received treatment.

Scabies

There has been a considerable reduction in the number of cases admitted to the Sick Bay during the year, and also in the number occurring in the district generally.

Meat Inspection

As stated in the Report for 1942, the arrangements for meat inspection were most unsatisfactory, but the position improved in 1943 when the Council's Sanitary Inspector was in June appointed Assistant Meat Inspector to the Sherborne U.D.C. and he has, since that date carried out routine inspection at the Slaughterhouses in Sherborne.

Venereal Disease

With a view to deciding what steps should be taken to deal with this matter, Medical Practitioners throughout the North Dorset District as a whole were asked to state how many cases of venereal disease they had attended during the twelve months. The replies received indicated that the incidence amongst the population was extremely small, only seven cases having been treated by them during the period in question. In view of this it was agreed to take no steps in the matter beyond the display of certain posters.

Evacuation

Good use continued to be made of The Beeches Hostel which provides accommodation for children presenting billeting difficulties. Dr. Dodd attended at the Hostel periodically to give psychiatric treatment to certain of the children in residence there.

By the ready goodwill and mutual assistance of the Chief Billeting Officers reciprocal use by all the Authorities in North Dorset of the various Hostels and Nurseries within the several districts was again achieved.

### Water Supplies

The water supply to the district has been generally sufficient to meet present needs but there are areas where the supply has not been entirely satisfactory. Complaints were received during the year of the insufficiency of the private supply to Nether Compton, and there was also a shortage of water in Trent and Bradford Abbas.

If the prospective requirements of agriculture are to be met, and if there is to be any considerable increase in the building of houses the water supply to the district as a whole will have to be augmented.

The bacteriological condition of the public water supplies has been generally satisfactory, but the condition of the majority of private sources has not been up to the required standard.

24 parishes with an approximate population of 4,006 are served by public supplies, whilst 8 parishes with an approximate population of 1,376 obtain water from private supplies.

Schemes for augmenting the supply to Bradford Abbas, Hermitage and the Northern Parishes have been drawn up, and it is hoped that the necessary sanction to put them into effect will be forthcoming from the Ministry of Health.

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation of the courtesy and help afforded to me by your Council and Officers throughout the year.

G. B. SCOTT,

Temporary Medical Officer  
of Health.

20th July, 1944.